HAT the Silk Manufacture of this Kingdom, by the Incouragement it hath receiv'd from the Crown, and divers Acts of Parliament, is above twenty times as great as it was in the Year 1664, and all forts of as good Black and Colour'd Silks, Gold and Silver Stuffs and Ribands, are now made here as in France, or any other Foreign Country.

That the Manufacture of Black Silks for Hoods and Scarves, not known in England above twenty-five Years ago, is now so increased that about 300,000 l. worth of that Commodity alone hath been Yearly, for several Years last, made here,

which before were used to be Bought with our Ready Money from France.

That as the Silk Manufacture hath increased here, the Exportation of our Cloth Serges, and other our Woollen Manufactures to Turky and Italy have also increased, and the Returns from those Parts have been, and are made in Raw and Thrown Silk for the Imployment of our Manusacturers, and the vast Numbers depending on them.

That by the Eighth and Ninth Articles of the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation between Great Britain and France, it is Agreed, That the Commodities from France may be Imported here, Paying as other Countries do, that are most favour'd,

for the like Commodities.

That Italian Wrought Silks are most favour'd, and pay 10s. 6d. the Pound

weight Custom.

That French Silks, notwithstanding they should be obliged to pay that Duty, will come to our Markets 20 d. in the Pound weight cheaper than our own (as appears by a Modest Calculation herein after-mentioned) occasioned partly from the small Duty paid for the Silk Imported from Italy into France, and the small Charge of Carriage by being so near; but chiefly from the Cheapness of Manusacturing, principally occasioned from their Money being raised.

The Costs of One Pound-Weight of Italian Thrown Silk Manufactured in Colour'd Plain Silk, being reduced to Eleven Ounces.

In France	In England.
l. s. d.	l. s. d.
For Custom —————— 0 – 00—8	0-03-4
Freight and Infurance — 0-01-0	0-01-6
Dying 0-co-6	0-01-0
Winding and Warping —o-or-o	0-02-0
Weaving	0-08-0
The Italian Duty as above0-07-0	0-00-0
——————————————————————————————————————	
0-14-2	0-15-10
The French cheaper than the English by	
0-1510	

Besides which, French Silks, in the Opinion of most of our Nation, having a Preference to our own (tho' better than theirs) the Fashions are, or are likely, to be taken from France: So that our English cannot make Provision for a Spring Trade for fear a New Fashion should come from France, and render ours Despicable: And in Case we should imitate them, we must come at the latter End of the Market, and by that time another Fashion comes in from France; whereby France will always have the First of the Market, and the English the Fag-end, which is above 15 l. per Cent. Difference in the Sale of those Goods.